

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 24, 2006, Applicant amends his application and requests reconsideration. In this Amendment claims 1, 5, 8, and 13 are cancelled leaving claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-12, and 14-18 pending.

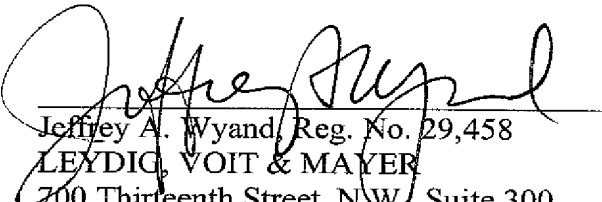
The minor errors in the specification noted by the Examiner are corrected.

Although a number of claims were rejected over prior art, the Examiner acknowledged that claims 8-12 and 15-18 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In this Amendment, claim 8 is rewritten in independent form as claim 2. Claim 11 is rewritten in independent form, maintaining its original claim number.

Claim 10 is presented as an independent claim, simply by combining examined claims 1 and 10. Claim 10 depended from claim 4, not directly from claim 1. However, it is apparent that the claim 10 presented here, encompassing the first-described embodiment of the patent application, distinguishes over the prior art. Accordingly, amended claim 10 is clearly patentable. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, 16, and 17 are amended to depend directly or indirectly from claim 10. Therefore, those claims are patentable.

All dependent claims now pending depend from an independent claim that was indicated to be allowable. Therefore, this Amendment places the application in form for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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